

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 02163 090254Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGRE-00 EB-08 AID-05 OMB-01 COME-00
TRSE-00 STR-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11
/055 W

-----047364 090258Z /61

P 081150Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 316

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, CE

SUBJ: INCREASE IN WHEAT FLOUR PRICE

REF: (A) COLOMBO 2132; (B) STATE 111952

1. MONDAY, MAY 8 EDITION OF "SUN" NEWSPAPER CARRIED ANNOUNCE-
MENT OF LONG-AWAITED FLOUR PRICE INCREASE. THE ARTICLE GIVES
INCREASES OF FLOUR PRICE FROM RS. 60 CENTS TO RS. 72 CENTS
PER POUND AND RS. 60 CENTS TO RS. 70 CENTS FOR LOAF OF BREAD.

2. AS REFTEL A INDICATES, DECISION TO IMPLEMENT PRICE IN-
CREASE CAME AS SURPRISE TO OFFICIALS OF FOOD COMMISSIONER'S
(FC) OFFICE. DEPUTY FOOD COMMISSIONER DISCUSSED REFTEL A
CONFIRMED IN TELEPHONE CONVERSATION MAY 8 HIS SURPRISE AT MOVE
TO INCREASE WITH NO PRIOR NOTIFICATION FC'S OFFICE. HE ALSO
EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT MODERATE LEVEL OF INCREASE AND STATED
THAT HE EXPECTS AN ADDITIONAL INCREASE SOON, POSSIBLY AS PART
OF PACKAGE MENTIONED REFTEL A.

3. EMBASSY INFORMED BY OTHER HIGH LEVEL SOURCE THAT ULTIMATE
DECISION TO IMPLEMENT PRICE INCREASE WAS MADE BY PRESIDENT
JAYEWARDENE WHEN HIS CABINET COULD NOT AGREE.

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4. CABINET MEMBERS WERE DIVIDED BETWEEN THOSE WHO FELT THAT
INCREASE IN FLOUR PRICE AT THIS TIME WOULD BE TOO RISKY POLI-
TICALLY, AND THOSE WHO FELT STRONG OBLIGATION TO MEET COMMIT-
MENT TO IMF. CABINET FINALLY VOTED TO LEAVE FINAL DECISION
TO PRESIDENT.

5. COPY OF "SUN" ARTICLE WHICH CONTAINS COMPLETE AND ACCURATE
DETAILS BEING AIR POUCHED TO JOHN MALOTT, NEA/INS.
WRIGGINS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WHEAT, FLOUR, PRICES, PRESS RELEASES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978COLOMB02163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780195-0511
Format: TEL
From: COLOMBO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780584/aaaactly.tel
Line Count: 65
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 24eab4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 COLOMBO 2132, 78 STATE 111952
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2765437
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INCREASE IN WHEAT FLOUR PRICE
TAGS: EAID, EAGR, CE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/24eab4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
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